



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending June 24, 2007

Issued weekly, April-November

Released June 25, 2007, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent week for Field Work: The summer is definitely here to stay! The hot and dry temperatures from the previous week continued through last week. Many counties in Pennsylvania received some rain throughout the week. These showers did give some relief to many dry fields. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included completing tillage work, spraying herbicides, repairing machinery, rotating pastures, fixing fences, cutting hay, and potatoes, pumpkins, soybeans, and vegetables.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 24, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
18	44	36	2

Crops: Ninety-three percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop is emerged, which is 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn height is now 26 inches, which is 4 inches taller than this time last year and 5 inches taller than the 5-year average. Conditions show that 68 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Ninety-eight percent of the state's soybeans have been planted. This is 10 percentage points higher than the 5-year average and 2 points above this time last year. Eighty-five percent of the planted soybeans have now emerged. This is 3 percentage points higher than this time last year, and 8 points higher than the 5-year average. Sixty-three percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Seventy percent of the emerged oats have now reached the heading stage. This is 2 points ahead of this time last year and 10 points ahead the 5-year average. Fifty-four percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Eight-four percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition, this is 6 percentage points higher than the previous week. Eighty-four percent of the headed wheat is now turning yellow. This is 8 points behind this time last year and 13 points ahead of the five year average. Ninety-four percent of the headed barley is now turning yellow. This is 5 points behind this time last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. One hundred percent of the tobacco crop has been transplanted. Sixty-six percent of the alfalfa standing is in good or excellent condition. Sixty-eight percent of timothy hay standing is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-four percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 98 percent of the first cutting and 33 percent of the second cutting of alfalfa have been completed. Eighty-two percent of the first cutting of Timothy hay has also been completed.

Livestock: The temperatures last week were high, and many of the pastures were dry. While pasture conditions aren't as good as they could be, they've been consistent. Most farmers are not pleased with the growth they've gotten over the past few weeks. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 16%, poor 19%, fair 33%, good 27%, and excellent 5%.

U.S. as of June 17, 2007: Cool conditions lingered in the Pacific Northwest and in portions of the southern Rockies, but hot, dry weather continued elsewhere West of the Rocky Mountains. High irrigation demands continued to be a concern in California, where rangeland and pastures remained 95 percent poor to very poor due to lack of precipitation. Hot, dry weather in the central and eastern Corn Belt reduced topsoil moisture and increased stress on summer crops and pastures. Elsewhere, much-needed rainfall provided drought relief in the southern Atlantic Coast region, while hot, dry weather persisted across most of the interior Southeast.

Soybeans: Growers had planted 96 percent of their intended acreage, 1 point behind last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Seeding was complete or nearly complete nationwide, and trailed behind normal only in Kansas and North Dakota. Emergence had begun on 92 percent of the acreage, compared with 91 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Abundant soil moisture aided emergence in portions of the Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt, where 21 percent of the crop emerged in South Dakota during the week. However, the amount of the crop rated good or excellent declined 5 percentage points nationwide from previous week.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 97 percent, 1 point behind last year last year but 2 points ahead of the normal pace. Progress was at or near complete in all areas except the Northern Rockies, where rapid progress was made during the week. Heading in Idaho advanced 36 points during the week, to 78 percent complete, 21 points ahead of the 5-year average. Producers had reaped 11 percent of their crop, 23 points behind last year and 9 points behind the normal pace.

Small Grains: Barley heading advanced to 13 percent, compared with 13 percent last year and 10 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was ahead of normal in all States. Oat heading, at 54 percent, was 5 points behind last year but 4 points ahead of the normal pace. Heading advanced 20 points or more during the week in Iowa, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 24, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 24, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	48	68	-1	0.88	1	6.02	-3.97	26	813	163	1,493
Franklin	91	48	66	-2	1.12	4	9.32	-1.71	36	810	182	1,512
Meadville	87	45	66	0	0.99	3	6.50	-4.21	37	823	263	1,512
Mercer	89	43	65	-2	1.25	3	9.51	-1.36	36	793	162	1,487
Springboro	89	41	64	-4	1.47	3	8.90	-0.64	45	688	23	1,351
Warren	89	42	64	-3	1.21	2	9.50	-1.96	34	687	83	1,364
North Central												
Bradford Region	86	35	60	-3	0.49	1	7.66	-3.85	38	546	135	1,169
Emporium	88	43	65	2	0.76	1	11.97	0.42	35	724	254	1,416
Kane	87	36	61	-2	0.73	1	9.67	-1.99	35	524	120	1,150
Laporte	87	44	65	-2	0.27	2	8.62	-2.35	39	642	16	1,293
Lock Haven	91	46	69	2	0.61	1	7.41	-3.11	27	886	201	1,590
Port Allegany	86	38	62	-2	0.42	1	8.51	-2.62	34	582	96	1,221
Renovo	90	46	67	-1	0.75	1	9.22	-1.30	29	864	179	1,567
Ridgway	87	40	64	1	0.89	2	10.62	-0.93	37	606	136	1,270
Stevenson Dam	89	46	67	4	0.75	1	8.09	-3.46	30	765	295	1,454
Towanda	95	42	67	0	0.26	2	6.10	-3.11	36	693	53	1,350
Wellsboro	89	42	64	2	0.74	2	9.34	0.36	32	601	172	1,235
Williamsport	92	47	71	2	0.41	1	5.81	-4.76	31	994	207	1,722
Northeast												
Hawley	90	40	65	0	0.94	3	8.85	-1.62	33	664	157	1,332
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	90	44	68	-1	0.51	3	7.70	-2.12	31	874	145	1,581
Susquehanna	89	44	65	2	1.22	3	9.77	-1.21	35	682	202	1,348
West Central												
Butler	89	44	66	-2	0.63	2	7.16	-3.64	31	814	146	1,514
New Castle	89	45	67	0	1.00	3	7.63	-2.14	32	877	210	1,588
Slippery Rock	92	45	67	1	1.64	3	11.03	0.57	35	872	274	1,578
Central												
Altoona/Blair	88	47	68	-1	0.84	2	7.84	-2.15	30	902	156	1,604
DuBois	87	42	64	-3	0.99	3	9.98	-1.21	39	776	159	1,465
Lewistown	91	49	70	0	1.08	1	9.80	-0.73	29	931	101	1,645
Middletown	92	55	74	2	0.64	1	7.23	-3.40	23	1,157	208	1,896
Prince Gallitzi	88	40	65	0	0.71	2	8.39	-4.07	32	700	144	1,375
Selinsgrove	91	48	70	2	0.81	1	7.92	-2.76	27	885	133	1,590
State College	90	48	69	2	0.51	1	7.86	-1.93	30	951	222	1,659
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	91	48	70	-1	1.23	4	11.42	0.72	32	979	130	1,699
Lehighnton	87	47	69	-2	1.29	2	10.51	-0.20	35	868	59	1,576
Matamoras	88	42	66	-3	1.07	3	10.69	-0.66	32	736	22	1,428
Mt_Pocono	84	43	64	1	1.68	2	11.15	-0.79	37	678	254	1,338
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	90	51	70	3	1.86	3	8.70	-1.71	32	1,098	349	1,826
Derry	90	47	67	-1	1.57	3	11.90	1.52	29	835	153	1,535
Myersdale	87	40	64	-4	0.88	2	7.78	-3.61	33	594	-71	1,249
Mount Pleasant	89	44	67	1	1.29	3	9.72	-2.34	36	821	235	1,532
Pittsburgh Intl	90	49	69	-1	1.26	2	8.25	-1.42	30	1,034	237	1,757
Connellsville	93	46	69	-1	1.25	2	8.89	-2.47	35	981	155	1,704
Waynesburg	89	45	68	-1	0.85	3	7.05	-3.42	33	881	163	1,597
South Central												
Biglerville	91	50	72	0	0.52	1	7.88	-2.09	24	1,036	94	1,768
Everett	88	44	65	-4	0.65	2	8.30	-1.29	30	700	-20	1,392
Hanover	92	48	71	-2	0.14	2	7.46	-2.51	23	997	55	1,720
Harrisburg_AP	95	51	73	1	1.60	1	5.60	-5.03	19	1,109	153	1,851
South Mountain	88	44	67	-3	0.17	2	9.28	-0.71	28	784	45	1,478
York	92	48	70	-2	0.42	1	8.32	-2.43	27	974	25	1,704
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	50	71	1	0.24	3	11.50	1.14	33	994	198	1,715
Hamburg	91	49	72	4	1.52	1	13.45	0.96	29	1,047	346	1,774
West_Chester	91	48	71	-2	0.51	2	13.30	1.76	24	961	34	1,678
Lancaster	93	50	72	1	1.16	1	9.10	-1.42	22	1,032	179	1,761
Neshaminy Falls	89	48	69	-2	1.28	3	19.60	7.97	32	902	53	1,609
New Holland	92	52	72	2	2.33	2	11.20	0.68	25	1,077	224	1,799
Philadelphia	91	58	75	2	0.47	2	14.68	4.35	22	1,212	195	1,964
Philadelphia NE	90	56	74	1	0.86	3	15.93	5.60	28	1,181	164	1,933
Reading	92	50	72	2	1.04	2	11.11	-0.54	29	1,080	256	1,812
Valley Forge Na	92	50	70	-4	1.45	1	13.83	3.05	32	982	-13	1,711
Willow Grove	89	53	71	1	0.85	3	14.12	2.49	34	1,052	203	1,779

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County remains very dry and it is starting to show in our crops. Last week only moisture was during a brief thunderstorm which didn't cover the whole county. Soil moisture level is low in all parts of the county. Temperatures were in the 70-80's. This weeks forecast is for hot and humid weather which will really hurt the crop conditions in the county without any rainfall.

Due to the dry weather, there has been a reduction in diseases commonly found in winter wheat and the test weights have improved. Wheat is being harvested in the county which is earlier than usual. Barley harvest has been started and nearly completed. Oats are now in heads. The corn is showing some stress due to dry weather conditions and different heights within fields due to soil moisture levels being low. Soybeans are drying over the hills and there isn't enough moisture to get them established. Hay is being made with all types being short due to dry weather.

The apples, plums, and apricots look good. Peaches look fine and no affect from springtime freezing temperatures. Cherries yields look ok and will soon be harvested. Sweet corn needs rain desperately. Strawberries are finished for the season and showed little damage from springtime freezing temperatures and good yields. Blueberries and raspberries are starting to show pollination problems and green beans need some rain also. Fireblight is being reported in pears and apples in the county especially on open wounds like hail or blossom time.

Overall the crops are still growing but very slow in the county due to the lack of moisture. This week will tell a lot about the future of our crops with high temps and high humidity and no rain.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Dry weather continues. It is getting serious now as the crops need moisture to continue to mature. Hay and pasture have suffered the most this week. Good weather for harvest of barley with reports of normal to slightly above normal yields and excellent straw. Wheat is turning fast.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The oats crop is headed but the stalk is short. There may not be a second crop of hay if it doesn't rain soon. Conditions are looking bad due to the dry weather.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work. With 1/4 inch of rainfall, sun and wind top soil moisture is low. We need a good soaking rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - This was an excellent week for making hay. Warm weather and a nice breeze quickly dried hay. Corn has started to jump in height and the bean fields are looking good.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts (EXT) – The quality of hay made reflects the weather conditions this week.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many farmers are spraying crop oats for weed control and etc. The oats and wheat stands are very short. The short stands could mean a straw shortage for the counties. Ideal weather conditions for corn growing. Soybeans look good also. Some of the early planted corn had to be replanted. There are some uneven stands out there. Hay yields are off compared to last year. Farmers are saying the yields are about 1/3 less than last year. The dry weather means very little second cuttings. Farmers are trimming fields and hoping to make a good third cutting.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - Farmers were busy baling straw, making hay, transplanting tobacco and planting double cropped soybeans and corn. Corps are looking real good. Tuesday's rain was beneficial. There were some trees blown down by the strong winds.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Showers early in the week helped; however, the wind and heat soon took it up. The crops in general look good in spite of the heat and dry soil conditions. Poor weed control in a few corn fields is becoming evident. The barley has been harvested with yields being respectable, but the test weight being very low. The main activities for the week were baling straw, spraying herbicides, and repairing equipment.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Some widespread rain this week really helped alleviate the dry conditions and stimulate crop growth. Most corn and soybeans are doing very well. First and second cutting hay yields have been reduced because of the late spring's dry conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 24, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, emerged	93	99	91
Corn average height, inches	26	22	21
Barley, turning yellow	94	99	95
Barley, ripe	65	89	65
Wheat, turning yellow	84	92	71
Wheat, ripe	9	33	11
Oats, heading or headed	70	68	60
Soybeans, planted	98	96	88
Soybeans, emerged	85	82	77
Tobacco, transplanted	100	99	89
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	98	91	82
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	33	22	18
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	82	71	57

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 24, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	3	6	23	52	16
Wheat	0	2	14	66	18
Oats	0	23	23	49	5
Soybeans	0	9	28	52	11
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	5	29	54	12
Timothy clover stand	0	3	29	60	8
Quality of hay made	0	1	25	54	20
Pasture	16	19	33	27	5
Peaches	0	0	2	54	44
Apples	0	0	1	51	48

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